

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A pharmaceutical composition comprising microtablets, wherein said microtablets comprise lansoprazole, a lubricant, optionally one or more excipients, and an enteric coating, wherein the weight ratio of lansoprazole to lubricant is from about 1:4 to about 8:1, wherein said microtablets have a tablet size of about 1 mm to about 4 mm, and a tablet weight of 1 to 50 mg, and said microtablets are free of a separating or intermediate layer between the lansoprazole and enteric coating.
2. A pharmaceutical composition comprising microtablets, wherein said microtablets comprise lansoprazole, a lubricant, optionally one or more excipients, and an enteric coating, wherein the weight ratio of lansoprazole to lubricant is from about 1:4 to about 8:1, wherein said microtablets have a tablet size of about 1 mm to about 4 mm, and a tablet weight of 1 to 50 mg, and said microtablets are free of a separating or intermediate layer between the lansoprazole and enteric coating, and said microtablets are free of an alkaline-reacting compound.
3. The composition according to Claim 1, wherein the weight ratio of lansoprazole to lubricant is from about 1:2 to about 5:1.
4. The composition according to Claim 3, wherein the weight ratio of lansoprazole to lubricant is about 1:1.
5. The composition according to Claim 1, wherein the lansoprazole is present in an amount of from about 2 to about 50 weight percent, based on the total weight of the microtablet.
6. The composition according to Claim 5, wherein the lansoprazole is present in an amount of from about 5 to about 20 weight percent, based on the total weight of the microtablet.
7. The composition according to Claim 1, wherein the lubricant is selected from the group consisting of calcium stearate, magnesium stearate, sodium stearate, zinc stearate, glyceryl monostearate, glyceryl palmitostearate, hydrogenated castor oil, hydrogenated vegetable oil, light mineral oil, mineral oil, polyethylene glycol, sodium benzoate, sodium lauryl sulfate, sodium stearyl fumarate, stearic acid, talc and combinations thereof.

8. The composition according to Claim 7, wherein the lubricant is magnesium stearate.
9. The composition according to Claim 1, wherein the microtablets have a tablet size of about 1.5 mm to about 2.5 mm.
10. The composition according to Claim 1, wherein the microtablets have a tablet weight of 2 to 10 mg
11. The composition according to Claim 1, wherein the enteric coating is selected from the group consisting of cross-linked polyvinyl pyrrolidone; non-cross linked polyvinylpyrrolidone; hydroxypropylmethyl cellulose phthalate, hydroxypropylmethyl cellulose acetate succinate, cellulose acetate succinate; cellulose acetate phthalate, hydroxypropylmethyl cellulose acetate succinate, cellulose acetate trimellitate, hydroxypropyl methyl cellulose phthalate; hydroxypropyl methyl cellulose acetate succinate; starch acetate phthalate; polyvinyl acetate phthalate; carboxymethyl cellulose; methyl cellulose phthalate; methyl cellulose succinate; methyl cellulose phthalate succinate; methyl cellulose phthalic acid half ester; ethyl cellulose succinate; carboxymethylamide; potassium methacrylatedivinylbenzene co-polymer; polyvinylalcohols; copolymers of acrylic acid and/or methacrylic acid with at least one monomer selected from the group consisting of methyl methacrylate, ethyl methacrylate, ethyl acrylate, butyl methacrylate, hexyl methacrylate, decyl methacrylate, lauryl methacrylate, phenyl methacrylate, methyl acrylate, isopropyl acrylate, isobutyl acrylate, and octadecyl acrylate; polyvinyl acetate; fats; oils; waxes; fatty alcohols; shellac; gluten; ethylacrylate-maleic acid anhydride co-polymer; maleic acid anhydride-vinyl methyl ether co-polymer; styrol-maleic acid copolymer; 2-ethyl-hexyl-acrylate maleic acid anhydride; crotonic acid-vinyl acetate co-polymer; glutaminic acid/glutamic acid ester co-polymer; carboxymethylethylcellulose glycerol mono-octanoate; polyarginine; poly(ethylene); poly(propylene); poly(ethylene oxide); poly(ethylene terephthalate); poly(vinyl isobutyl ether); poly(vinyl chloride); polyurethane and combinations thereof.
12. The composition according to Claim 11, wherein the enteric coating is selected from the group consisting of a co-polymer of methacrylic acid and methyl methacrylate, and a copolymer of methacrylic acid and ethyl acrylate.
13. The composition according to Claim 12, wherein the enteric coating is poly(methacrylic acid, ethyl acrylate).

14. The composition according to Claim 1, wherein the enteric coating is present in an amount of from about 5 to about 50 weight percent, based on the total weight of the microtablet.
15. The composition according to Claim 1, wherein the enteric coating is present in an amount of from about 15 to about 20 weight percent, based on the total weight of the microtablet.
16. The composition according to Claim 1, wherein the enteric coating additionally comprises at least one plasticizer.
17. The composition according to Claim 16, wherein the plasticizer is selected from the group consisting of acetyl-triethyl citrate, acetyl tributyl-, tributyl-, triethyl-citrate, glycerol diacetate, glycerol triacetate, acetylated monoglycerides, castor oil, dibutyl-phthalate, diamyl-phthalate, diethyl-phthalate, dimethyl-phthalate, dipropyl-phthalate, di-(2-methoxy- or 2-ethoxyethyl)-phthalate, ethylphthalyl glycolate, butylphthalylethyl glycolate, butylglycolate, propylene glycol, polyethylene glycol, diethyladipate, di-(2-methoxy- or 2-ethoxyethyl)-adipate, benzophenone, diethyl- and dibutylsebacate, dibutylsuccinate, dibutyltartrate, diethylene glycol dipropionate, ethyleneglycol diacetate, ethyleneglycol dibutyrate, ethyleneglycol dipropionate, tributyl phosphate, tributyrin, polyethylene glycol sorbitan monooleate, sorbitan monooleate, and combinations thereof.
18. The composition according to Claim 17, wherein the plasticizer is triethyl citrate and glycerol monostearate.
19. The composition according to Claim 1, which additionally comprises at least one excipient.
20. The composition according to Claim 19, wherein the excipient is independently selected from the group consisting of a binder, diluent, plasticizer, anti-caking agent, filler, solubilizing agent, disintegrant, surfactant, flavorant, sweetener, stabilizer, anti-oxidant, anti-adherent, preservative, glidant, pigment and combinations thereof.
21. A method for treating gastrointestinal sicknesses comprising administering to a patient in need thereof a pharmaceutical composition comprising microtablets, wherein said microtablets comprise lansoprazole, a lubricant, optionally one or more excipients, and an enteric coating, wherein the weight ratio of lansoprazole to lubricant is from about 1:4 to

about 8:1, wherein said microtablets have a tablet size of about 1 mm to about 4 mm, and a tablet weight of 1 to 50 mg, and said microtablets are free of a separating or intermediate layer between the lansoprazole and enteric coating.